



## THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

### COMMITTEES:

Rules, *Chair*  
Budget - Subcommittee on Higher Education  
Appropriations, *Vice Chair*  
Budget  
Budget - Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice  
Appropriations  
Community Affairs  
Judiciary  
Reapportionment  
Regulated Industries  
Rules - Subcommittee on Ethics and Elections

### SENATOR JOHN THRASHER

8th District

July 20, 2011

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for AT&T's application to merge with T-Mobile. This important transaction will provide new opportunities for small businesses to grow and create jobs.

Small business is the fastest driver of our economy and as leaders we need to embrace new technologies that enhance their ability to succeed. High speed broadband is perhaps the most important business tool a company can use to improve efficiency and productivity. As a result of the merger, AT&T will be able to provide its 4G network to a greater segment of the nation. In Florida, rural counties will gain access to mobile broadband, bringing them in line with bigger cities. For people who own businesses in those communities, they will have the opportunity to access cutting edge capabilities equal to their competitors in larger markets.

As a result of the growing use of wireless technology, new businesses are being created every day dedicated to supporting web-based applications, building new mobile devices and supporting advanced operations. As wireless providers continue enhancing their networks, new opportunities will emerge for companies in this sector. As these companies prosper they will feed the economy through job creation and tax payments.

Small businesses are uniquely positioned to feed the growth of our new innovation economy. With greater access to broadband technology, the start-up of today can become the Facebook of tomorrow. AT&T can help power these new companies and provide the service and support they need to prosper.

#### REPLY TO:

- 9485 Regency Square Boulevard, Suite 108, Jacksonville, Florida 32225-8145 (904) 727-3600
- 400 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5030  
1-888-861-9761

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**MIKE HARIDOPOLOS**  
President of the Senate

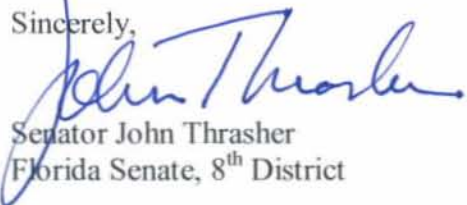
**MICHAEL S. "MIKE" BENNETT**  
President Pro Tempore

July 20, 2011

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I appreciate the opportunity to address the Commission on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Thrasher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Senator John Thrasher  
Florida Senate, 8<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Senator Bill Nelson  
Senator Marco Rubio  
Florida Congressional Delegation